



BRAEFOOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1440 Harrop Road, Victoria, B.C. V8P 2S6

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<https://braefoot.sd61.bc.ca> Email: braefoot@sd61.bc.ca

Braefoot Elementary School Newsletter

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Dates to Remember

September

Thurs. 21	Newsletter Day Terry Fox Run
Fri. 22	Pro D Day –School Not in Session
Tues. 26	Individual Photo Day
Wed. 27	Welcome Back Open House BBQ
Fri. 29	Orange Shirt Day

October

Mon. 2	Day off in lieu of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—School not in session
Thurs. 5	Newsletter Day
Mon. 9	Thanksgiving Day —School Not in Session
Tues. 17	PAC Meeting, 7 pm Library
Wed. 18	Parent/Teacher Conferences 3pm to 5 pm
Thurs. 19	Early Dismissal for students at 11:50 am. Parent/Teacher Conferences 1 pm to 6 pm Newsletter Day
Fri. 20	Pro D Day—School not in session



The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations on whose traditional territories we live and do our work.

In This Issue

Important Dates and Information for you to know:

- School Calendar
- Bell Schedule
- Start Up Packages
- Parent Connect
- Welcome back BBQ
- New staff
- Food Programs and Supplies
- 1000x5
- Back to School Supplies
- School Calendar update
- Picture Day
- Braefoot Swim Club
- Letter from the Superintendent
- Indigenous Education
- Cedar Hill School Project
- Healthy Schools Snapshot
- PAC
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Please check out our SD61 website page at: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/>

SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES 2023-2024

SCHOOL CALENDAR

School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 5
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Monday, October (Day off in lieu)
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 13 (Day off in lieu)
Last day of Classes before Winter Break	Friday, December 22
School Re-Opens after Winter Break	Monday, January 8
Family Day	Monday, February 19
Last Day of School Before Spring Break	Friday, March 15
Good Friday	Friday, March 29
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1
School Re-Opens after Spring Break	Wednesday, April 3
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20
Last Day of School for Students	Thursday, June 27
Year End Administrative Day	Friday, June 28

NON INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

Friday September 22	Friday, January 26 (School Chosen)
Friday, October 20	Friday, February 16
Monday, November 20	Friday, May 17

**** Check the school calendar on the Braefoot School website regularly as some dates may change throughout the year.**

Bell Schedule at Braefoot School for 2023-2024

8:30 am	Basic Outdoor Supervision Begins
8:45 am	All teachers meet students at their pre-arranged spots and enter the building together to begin their instructional day.
10:05 -10:20am	Morning Recess Outdoor Playtime
11:50 -12:05:pm	Lunch Eating Time
12:05 - 12:35 pm	Lunch Recess Outdoor Playtime
2:37 pm	Dismissal Bell



Start Up Packages, Forms and Payment

On Monday, each family was emailed information with a link to “Parent Connect” regarding online permissions (i.e. for field trips, computer use etc.) for their child(ren). This only needs to be done once in a child’s time with the Greater Victoria School District.

In addition, each student should have brought home a pack up of paper forms which are not available online. You will need to review, amend, sign and return these papers to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

These documents are critical in assisting our school to contact families in the case of an emergency.

This package will contain:

- Student Information Verification form
- Student Planner with online payment instructions; Please note that the cost of student planners is \$6.00 (not \$8.00). Unfortunately, there was a fire in the warehouse with our printed planners. The planners will be reprinted, but now won’t be here for a couple of months.
- Emergency Release Instructions and form
- Important Authorization Form for PAC and BC Nutritional Program

Please return the envelope **directly** to the classroom teacher. Each envelope is personalized and has a handy checklist within the letter for online forms and paper forms.



Parent Connect

We are excited to provide a wide selection of assessed digital/online tools to supplement your child's classroom learning. Your informed consent is required prior to signing up and using any district-approved digital/online tool. This is provided through our [Parent Connect](https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-connect/) online tool for students in grades K-8. For more information about signup and use of Parent Connect, please visit <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-connect/>.

This message serves as a reminder to review the consent items in Parent Connect from previous school years and to check the portal for new items that may need your review. You and your child have the choice to grant or revoke consent at any time for each of the digital tools based on the privacy considerations for each specific tool listed. Note that there is a Translate option in the main menu in Parent Connect.

If you have any questions regarding the use of digital/online tools, please reach out to your child's teacher and/or administrator.

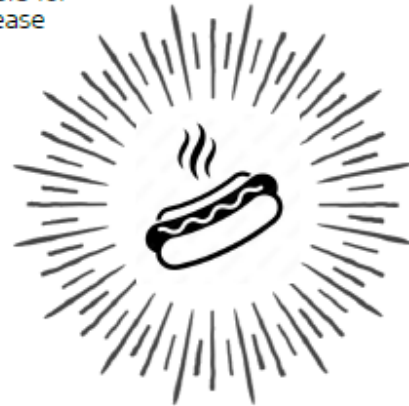


PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
BACK to SCHOOL
HOT DOG BBQ



Come join us for dinner and let us do the cooking! Parents/guardians will first be able to have a casual classroom visit with their child/ren's teacher followed by hotdogs for all. Juice boxes and chips available for the kids. Rain or shine so please dress for the weather.

WEDNESDAY
SEPT
27



Vegan and a small amount of Gluten Free options available

From
5:30pm to 6:30pm
Classrooms open up at 5pm

Serving up at the Black top Area (behind the school)

PLEASE CONSIDER A \$5 DONATION BY CASH AT THE EVENT OR VIA BRAEFOOT.HOTLUNCHES.NET

We are asking families to RSVP this year so we have a better idea of numbers. Please scan the QR code to fill out or go directly to www.braefootpac.ca. This year classrooms open at 5pm and BBQ is at 5:30pm



REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLES



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on Wednesday, October 18 from 3pm to 5pm and on Thursday, October 19 from 1pm to 6pm.

Students will be dismissed at 11:50 am on Thursday, October 19. (Regular dismissal time on Wednesday, October 18.)

Information on how to book parent teacher conferences is available on the Braefoot website at <https://braefoot.sd61.bc.ca/>

Please note: The link to book conference times will not be open until Wednesday, September 27 at 3pm. Parents will not be able to access bookings until after 3pm on September 27.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SNAPSHOT

The School District has made a few changes to the Snapshots for the 2023-24 school year.

- Firstly, we will introduce a new Snapshot bi-monthly starting in September.
- Secondly, the Snapshots for the year will focus on the significance of nurturing connections and community in your children's lives.

The September/ October Snapshot explores some of the agencies and services in our community for families. These agencies can serve as valuable partners, offering a wide variety of services designed to bolster families and enhance their overall well-being. By collaborating with these organizations, parents can tap into a wealth of expertise, guidance, and programs that address a spectrum of needs.

Access the Snapshot Here: [September/October 2023 Snapshot – It Takes a Village](#)

Marnice Jones

Mental Health Resource Coordinator
Greater Victoria School District No. 61

Braefoot Parents' Advisory

Braefoot PAC meeting will take place, Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00pm in the Braefoot library.

Our PAC meetings represents a wonderful opportunity to meet new parents and to become involved in the school at the "grassroots level."



WELCOME TO SOME NEW FACES AT BRAEFOOT

Braefoot would like to welcome these new team members to our school.

Courtenay Barr—Inclusive Education

Kim Kosciak—Kindergarten

Connor McCoy—Principal

Madeleine Rogers—Library (Tues)

Andrea Rushton—EA

Amanda Shearing—Kindergarten (Mon, Tues, Wed)

Rachel Watters—Kindergarten (Thurs, Fri)



Food Programs and School Supplies

The school has access to lunch and food programs for families that could use assistance financially or otherwise. Students can sign up for free daily bagged lunches. We also have backpacks filled with school supplies that can go home with students.

Please let our school counsellor, Maxine Toth (mtoth@sd61.bc.ca), or our administrator, Connor McCoy, know if your family would like to sign up or take a backpack.



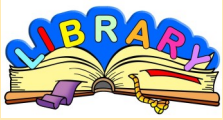
1000X5

1000 Books by Age Five

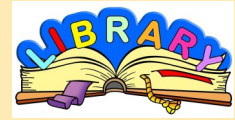
Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria

Looking for Gently Used Books

1000X5 sends your gently used books for babies and preschoolers into homes where books may be few. This is Year 13 of sending gift bags each with 3 books. We have delivered 311,000 books which have been so kindly donated by you. Over the year, children may receive 30 books – transforming learning. Ask for the **pink bin** in your school. Check out our website for more information: www.1000X5.ca



BRAEFoot LIBRARY NEWS



We are looking forward to another year of reading, learning, exploring, and creating in our Braefoot Library Learning Commons! This year, all classes will have the opportunity to visit the Learning Commons for library book exchange, lessons in Applied Skills, Design, and Technologies, and various collaborative lessons and activities co-taught by Mrs. Baker and classroom teachers.

Book Exchange

During the week of September 25th, all students will begin visiting the library for regular book exchange. Books are typically due back one week after they are borrowed for Kindergarten through Grade 3 students, and two weeks after they are borrowed for Grades 4-5. However, all students are welcome to renew books if they need more time to finish reading them! Books can also be returned in advance if they are finished early. This year, all divisions will have their book exchange on **Wednesdays**, with the exception of **Division 5** (Miss Linnell's class), who will have their book exchange on **Fridays**.

The library is also open for any students wishing to exchange their books on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:37 until 2:50.

Book Fair

Mark your calendars! The Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to Braefoot October 16-18. This is an exciting opportunity for families to purchase books to read at home while supporting our school library programs. More information to come soon regarding times. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Braefoot Book Fair, please contact Mrs. Baker.

Parent Volunteers

Students at Braefoot love to read, and sometimes we can fall behind on the huge job of ensuring library books get put back where they belong on the shelves. In the past, our library program has tremendously benefited from parent volunteers shelving books, tidying, organizing, and helping with other various library-related tasks to keep things running smoothly for our students! We could also use some parent volunteers to help before, after, and during our upcoming October Book Fair. Volunteering in the library does not need to take up much of your time and can be done either at a regularly scheduled weekly time, or on a flexible basis.

If you have some time to spare and would be interested in volunteering in the library, please contact Mrs. Baker – cbaker@sd61.bc.ca

Thank you in advance for your support of the Library Learning Commons program at Braefoot. It's going to be a great year!

Mrs. Baker

Teacher-Librarian & Technology Teacher

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Here is a link to our back to school supplies for each grade.

<https://braefoot.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/school-supplies-2023-24/>



SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGES

We try our best to keep the Braefoot School Community up to date on activities and events that take place at Braefoot.

Things do change, so please check the school website regularly.

<https://braefoot.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/calendar/>

The following event has been changed:

Beach Day has been changed from Friday, June 21 to Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

PICTURE DAY IS COMING



Individual Picture Day will take place on Tuesday, September 26th. Students are photographed on picture day and these photos are used in the library and in our school database. Photos will be a proof system. Meaning that families can wait to order pictures until after they see them. Families will have the option to order online or to order in the traditional method, using the forms that come home with the proofs. Proofs will come home 2-3 weeks after picture day for parents to review and then parents can order. Pictures once ordered come to the school and then are sent home for distribution.

Braefoot Swim Club

We are excited to offer Braefoot Swim Club again this year! The Swim Team will be practicing from 3:00-3:45pm on Wednesdays and will participate in several swim meets throughout the year. To join the team, your child must be in Grade 3, 4 or 5 and must be able to comfortably swim 25m unassisted without an adult in the water. The swimmers will learn to swim freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly. A meeting will be called for all interested swimmers in the next few weeks and more information will be sent home at that time.





Board of Education and Superintendent

School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8
Phone (250) 475-4106 Fax (250) 475-4112

September 18, 2023

Dear Families and Caregivers,

We are excited to welcome new and returning students, staff and families this September. Over the summer months, the Board of Education and District Staff have been busy planning and preparing for a successful 2023-2024 school year.

As you may be aware, on May 31, 2023, the Board of Education ended the School Police Liaison Officer Program which involved School Police Liaison Officers from Oak Bay Police, Saanich, and the RCMP (Police Liaison Officers have not been present in Victoria and Esquimalt schools since 2018).

The Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools are deeply committed to creating and maintaining safe, welcoming, and inclusive school environments for all members of our learning community. We believe that every student deserves an environment in which they can thrive academically and personally and want to assure you that the safety of our learning community remains our top priority.

Furthermore, we want to reassure you that our students will continue to receive the necessary support and care from trained, certified, and regulated professionals in schools and the community. Over the summer, the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools worked to ensure that appropriate processes are in place. We will be collaborating with schools to ensure they are informed about how to access and utilize these available services for supporting students and staff during times of need.

The Board is committed to maintaining strong relationships with local police and to clearly defining their roles within our schools. They play a key role in keeping our school communities safe. In the event of a school emergency, we want to emphasize that our existing protocols for lockdowns, critical incidents, and violent threat risk assessments continue to be in effect.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our shared goal of providing a safe and nurturing educational environment for all students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Duncan".

Nicole Duncan
Chair, Board of Education
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deb Whitten".

Deb Whitten
Superintendent of Schools
School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.

One *Learning* Community





Indigenous Education Department

Greater Victoria School District No. 61
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, B.C. V8Z 1E8
Telephone: 250 475-4124
Fax: 250 475-4109

*The Greater Victoria School District resides on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people.
We would like to acknowledge the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations on whose territory we live, we learn and we do our work.*

September 14th, 2023

Dear SD61 Parents/Caregivers:

This letter is being sent to all families in the Greater Victoria School District to provide information about the Indigenous Education Department (IED) and the services and resources this department provides to our SD61 learning community. This letter will clarify the definition of Indigenous Ancestry and explain how to self-identify on the school registration form.

The Indigenous Education Department (IED) supports the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives and resources that align with the BC Curriculum in our schools and classrooms along with providing holistic supports to students that have self-identified with Indigenous Ancestry. The staff of the IED provides guidance in our School District to weave Indigenous Knowledge and Ways of Being into district policies, classrooms and schools. Key areas include: Holistic Wellness; Social Emotional Learning; Land Based Learning; Arts and Culture; Advocacy for Indigenous students and families; and, the authentic use of Indigenous resources for schools and classrooms. The IED works with The Songhees Nation; The Esquimalt Nation; The Metis Nation Greater Victoria; The Urban People's Indigenous Advisory and an Indigenous Elders Advisory Council.

The BC Ministry of Education and Child Care defines Indigenous Ancestry as students who identify as First Nations, Status or Non-status, Métis or Inuit. The BC Ministry of Education and Child Care does not require proof of ancestry to self-identify. Parents and caregivers of students with Indigenous Ancestry may choose to self-identify on the school registration form under the section Indigenous Ancestry or by calling the school to request that they include this self-identification of Indigenous Ancestry on your child's school registration form.

Our Indigenous Education Department provides supports to all schools in the district along with supplementary supports for students who self-identify as having Indigenous Ancestry. The purpose of these enhanced learning experiences is to increase a sense of belonging, academic success and increase understanding and awareness within our School District. The Indigenous Education Department will connect with your family annually about the opportunities that may be available at your school, in the district and/or in the community as it relates to Indigenous Education. Participation in these programs, supports and services is always voluntary.

If you have questions, concerns, or wish to learn more about supports for students with Indigenous ancestry, please give us a call. For more information, please visit our website at: <https://ied.sd61.bc.ca/>

Dr. Shelly Niemi, Director
Indigenous Education Department
SD61

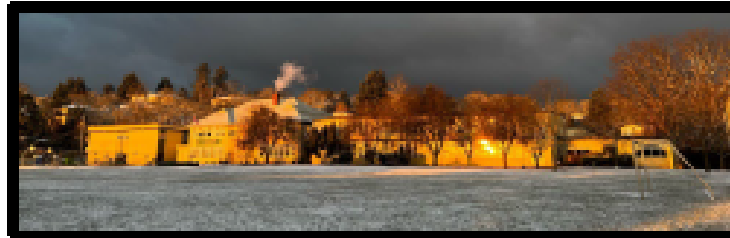
Hay'sxw'qa – Klecko Klecko - Gilakas'la – All My Relations

CEDAR HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT REPORT

SCHOOL REPLACEMENT- PROJECT UPDATE

3910 CEDAR HILL ROAD

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023



PURPOSE

This project report will update the Cedar Hill community throughout the construction phase of the seismic replacement of Cedar Hill Middle School.

BACKGROUND

The replacement of Cedar Hill Middle School is a priority project for the District due to its high seismic risk and poor general condition. The school is a key asset to meet current and projected enrolment for regular and District educational programs. The new school will be designed to meet today's seismic requirements and support accessibility and next generation learning. The new school will also support carbon reduction through roof-top photovoltaics and a geo-thermal mechanical system.

Cedar Hill Middle School will remain operational during the construction of the new full replacement school on the existing south/east playfield; see new site plan below. Once the new school is complete, and students and staff have moved in, the existing school will be demolished and a geo-thermal field and replacement playfield will be constructed in its place.

The school will take approximately 2 years to complete and will require additional patience and understanding as our busy location will be even busier.

The replacement of Cedar Hill Middle School will provide our community with a progressive new school that will serve our community for future generations.

KEY TEAM MEMBERS

- School District Facilities and Administration
- KMBR Architecture
- General Contractor to be confirmed

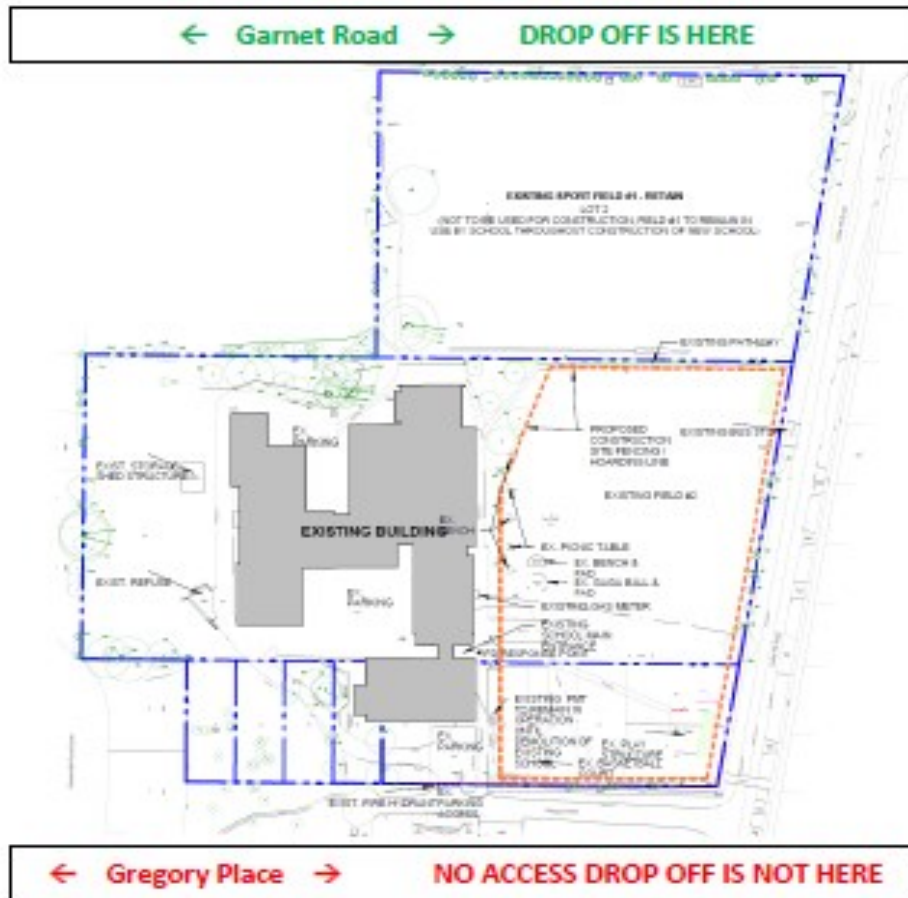
MILESTONES

Construction Start-Up	September 18, 2023
Completion	School: Planned completion Spring 2025
	Demolition and Geo-Field Work: Planned completion Spring 2026
School Occupancy	Planned for September 2025

PROJECT UPDATE

Starting Monday, September 18:

- The General Contractor will begin setting up protective fencing around the build site. The red dotted line on the map below indicates fenced area.
- The General Contractor will begin set up of work trailers within the fencing on the Gregory Place and Cedar Hill Road corner of the site.
- There will be large vehicles coming and going on Cedar Hill Road and Gregory Place.
- Student drop-off will remain on Garnet Road and a safe route to the school will be provided along the west side of existing sport field #1.
- The Gaga Ball Game will be relocated to a temporary location for the 2023/24 school year.
- The Basketball Court will not be available during construction.
- There will be extra supervision on the playground during site set up.



Questions can be directed to facility@sd51.bc.ca